



THE TEXAS STATE CHAMBER

PRO-BUSINESS • PRO-TEXAS

FOR OVER 85 YEARS

August 11, 2015

Tom Wheeler
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

RE: MB Docket No. 15-149

Dear Chairman Wheeler,

At the Texas Association of Business, we strive to cultivate a productive business climate and strong state economy. We are the largest employer organization in Texas, representing major multinational corporations and small businesses in nearly every community across the state. Our members rely on our expertise and advocacy experience for advice and support regarding significant developments in the state's economy.

The telecommunications industry has a massive role in economic development, making any changes in the industry of major interest to our members. We believe the recent merger proposal of Charter Communications, Time Warner Cable, and Bright House Networks into New Charter would drive growth through affordable services. New Charter's commitment to investment would also improve our nation's broadband infrastructure.

As an organization with a diverse membership, we understand that not all businesses have the same needs or interests. However, there are some important areas of agreement. The cable broadband industry presents one of these commonalities. All business, whether they have 2,000 or two employees, need reliable, high-quality, and affordable access to broadband. With technology encroaching deeper into all facets of business, a competitive broadband industry is increasingly important.

New Charter would diversify cable broadband and impose needed competition throughout the industry. Their services would include a range of consumer options, including broadband speeds starting at 60 Mbps and topping off at 300 Mbps. Even at the slowest speed, customers would be able to stream on multiple devices under one roof. Best of all, New Charter would prioritize affordability. This is great news for start-ups and small businesses who cannot afford to break their bottom line on broadband.

New Charter would also contribute to a more competitive industry through its investment in building out residential and commercial networks. The merging companies have already agreed to commit \$2.5 billion to commercial lines and invest in building out one million residential

lines. Beyond competition, these investments will also contribute to our greater broadband infrastructure in rural and underserved communities.

We are very excited about New Charter, and would like to extend our full support to the merger. We urge you to consider the benefits a pro-competition, pro-consumer company like New Charter would bring the industry.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Wallace". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "C" and "W".

Chris Wallace
President
Texas Association of Business